

# Anthro - Digital, Inc.

P.O. Box 1385

Pittsfield, MA 01202

413-448-8278

## OMNISCAN<sup>T.M.</sup>

### LASER VIDEODISC INTERFACE

Thank you for your inquiry into our Omniscan(tm) Videodisc Interface between the Apple™ 2 Series computers and the consumer-level LaserDisc(tm). We are enclosing a descriptive brochure. This brochure is simple because the operation is simple; the applications are the heart of this device. Cost is kept down by making Omniscan work only with the popular, low-cost consumer players.

This combination of equipment is certainly the lowest priced entry into the interactive video arena and includes all of the essential capabilities. Programmable access of color, motion, still frame, and two-channel sound (for stereo, bilingual, question-and-answer, or two-level instruction), branching determined by user response, and automatic scoring of responses are all available.

Omniscan essentially gives a duplicate of the LaserDisc control panel which can be accessed under programmed control of the computer. It includes a programmable switch allowing the video monitor alternately to display computer output or videodisc picture as required.

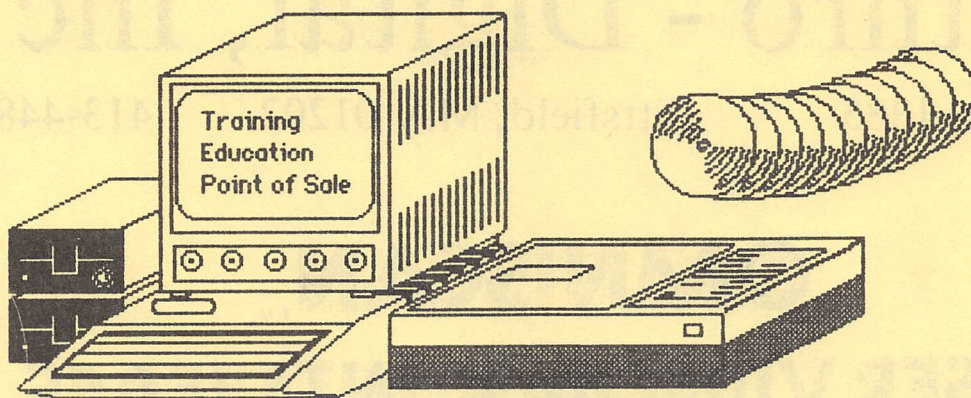
Since the board does not interact with the video signals but only passes them through, there is no difficulty in using Omniscan with European systems.

Omniscan has been in use for well over three years and special video software and authoring systems (methods to make it easy for non-programmers to write scripts) are available. The Omniscan package includes the circuit board, cables, and software in four languages: BASIC, Pascal, Super PILOT, and machine language, for \$275. An optional wireless control is available for \$30.

See the back of this page for a list of resources for more information, consultation, and production. Thanks again for your inquiry; we look forward to helping you develop your programmes.

Anthro-Digital, Inc.





## ***The OMNISCAN System***

### Magazines and Newsletters

Interactive Video Technology  
223 Sunrise Drive  
Shreve, OH 44676  
216 - 567 - 3732

Optical Memory Newsletter  
Box 14817  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
415 - 621 - 6620

Videodisc Design/Production Group  
KUON TV  
University of Nebraska  
P.O. Box 83111  
Lincoln, NE 68501  
402 - 472 - 3611

### Videodisc Consulting and Production

AVS Productions  
Liberty Square  
Danvers, MA 01923  
617 - 777 - 5332

Omnicom Associates  
908 Steam Mill Road  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
607 - 277 - 0405

Sharon Brown  
22610 Coriander  
Katy, TX 77450  
713 - 392 - 3265

### An Authoring Language

Simpac Educational Services  
Suite 11-C  
1105 N. Main St.  
Gainesville, FL 32601  
904 - 376 - 2049

Information on mastering your own productions on LaserDisc from your tapes can be obtained from:

#### East

Ms. Vivain L. Ebersman  
3M Sales Representative  
Optical Recording Proj.  
91 Central Park West  
New York, NY 10023  
212 - 724 - 0838

#### Midwest

Mr. Carl E. Renalls  
3M Sales Representative  
Optical Recording Proj.  
223-5S-01 3M Center  
St. Paul, MN 55144  
612 - 736 - 4361

#### West

Ms. Penny S. Otto  
3M Sales Representative  
Optical Recording Proj.  
2521 Heather Hill Lane  
Plano, TX 75075  
214 - 985 - 8922

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# OMNISCAN<sup>T.M.</sup>

The OmniScan<sup>(tm)</sup> LaserDisc System from Anthro-Digital, Inc. is the most revolutionary means of information storage and retrieval since the printing press, because it combines the three most important technologies in existence today:

- \* The personal computer - specifically the Apple II, the most popular ever.
- \* The LASER beam, which can be focused within microns to access ultra-high-density storage on durable, inexpensive plastic discs.
- \* Color television, which, although we take it for granted, is an extremely sophisticated technology which gives us incredibly realistic views of the world.

The OmniScan interface is used to control the low-cost Pioneer VP-1000<sup>(tm)</sup> and LD1100<sup>(tm)</sup>, Sylvania VP7200<sup>(tm)</sup>, and Magnavox VC8010GY<sup>(tm)</sup> and similar LaserDisc players in an interactive way, with software running on the Apple II or //e computer. The Apple duplicates the operation of the LaserDisc's control panel from the keyboard or under program control. It is even possible to *switch* your video monitor automatically to show the Apple's output or the LaserDisc image.

The low cost of the Omniscan System is the important consideration in this system. Omniscan is the lowest-priced interface on the market and it is designed to work with the lowest-priced LaserDisc players; this can be of vital importance to schools and companies planning to install hundreds of systems. Video discs are typically \$18.00 each when produced in quantities. The laser-read video disc players that are currently available from Magnavox, Pioneer, Sylvania, MCA/DVA, Phillips, Sony, Fisher, Gold Star, and Sampo are all compatible in format.

Used as an instructional system, for example, the OmniScan system can teach, test, grade and review material based on individual learning rates. The LaserDisc's capability to carry and show still pictures, motion pictures, bi-lingual voice, stereo music, or independent mixes of the two, text books, digital data, X-rays, blueprints, museum collections, transparencies, computer-generated text and graphics, microfilm, or any other media that is available. Essentially this means that a single medium can be used to provide multimedia reference or learning experiences.

Up to 54,000 uniquely individual frames on each side of the disc can be randomly accessed in seconds. And the information can be indexed a number of different ways depending upon your needs. The branching capability of the computer allows unlimited flexibility in programming a learning sequence.

Another important use of the system is as a visual database of any material. Unlike any other form of computer aided instruction, this system can show incredibly live action, detailed close-ups, time-lapse, slow motion, and stop-frame, - all with *no loss of picture quality* - all under *program control*. Medical case histories, paintings, travel scenes, maps, point-of-sale presentations, animals - virtually anything you can think of can be easily accessed! These graphic capabilities are the best methods yet for teaching complex processes from mixing chemicals to understanding Impressionist art.

The LaserDisc has been described as the *omnibus* medium. No other medium has such dense storage or as many capabilities. Look at these important features:

## LASERDISC FEATURES

1. Instant Access: Any of 54,000 individual frames are immediately available.
2. Random Access: Any of those frames can be accessed in any order.
3. Custom Access: The computer can control branching to any location on the disc to meet your design needs.
4. Variable Access: Frames or motion picture segments can be shown at regular speed, slow motion, accelerated motion, and stop motion, all in forward or reverse. At regular speed, you can have sound from either or both audio tracks for bi-lingual speech, two-level instruction, or questions and answers.
5. Remote Access: The LaserDisc player can be located away from prying fingers and hostile environments and remain accessible. An optional *wireless* remote control is available, too.



6. Eternal Access: Since the LaserDisc is read by a laser beam which does not touch the disc surface there is no wear and the signal is not degraded by surface dirt. LaserDiscs require so little care that they should last forever.
7. Compact Access: 54,000 uniquely individual frames of information or one hour of motion picture are available on each side of a LaserDisc.
8. Cheap Access: LaserDiscs can be produced for less than twenty dollars each if quantities are large enough.

The computer-interactive LaserDisc can be used for education and training of every sort, document storage and retrieval, or database management. Presently, most available titles are movies and some linear education subjects (play from one end to the other) that do not make use of viewer intervention. Not much more useful than a video tape system when used in this fashion. But when a microcomputer is interfaced to control the LaserDisc in an interactive way, the system becomes much more powerful than either technology by itself.

### What is Interactive Video?

The key word in interactive video is YOU!

You become the active part of the program. You choose and the program reacts. The program questions and you respond and the computer re-responds. You are an active participant.

Interactive video with the LaserDisc can be as simple or as sophisticated as your needs require. With an interactive video system you can create programs using simple multiple-choice questions, or offer questions on one audio track with explanations on the other, or simulations which give a virtual "experience" of a task or location - from landing an aircraft at a foreign airport to learning how to operate and program computers.

The interactive video disc system lets you operate useful programs for these applications with a combination of functions no other medium can match.

LaserDisc materials can be designed for audiences with varying capabilities. By being able to access any of the 54,000 individual frames, educators can choose the sequences most appropriate for their student's learning styles and abilities. Teachers can also stop the presentation to allow for further explanation. And by interfacing the videodisc to the Apple II computer a student can be directed to appropriate instruction depending on his or her responses. Even the currently available movies can be used to study techniques of direction, acting, lighting, makeup, and special effects.

Used as an instructional system, for example, the OmniScan system can teach, test, and review material based on individual learning rates.

Entire texts and other educational materials can be put on LaserDiscs for immediate access and more economical compact storage. Medical education can benefit from videodiscs through instant access to diagnostic procedures and surgical procedures. Etc.

### Omniscan Includes

The control card, all cables, and a disk. Documentation on the hardware and a tutorial on the software is provided. Software is included in Applesoft(tm), BASIC, machine language, Apple UCSD Pascal(tm), and Super PILOT are available.

Omniscan: \$275.00 card, cables, drivers in BASIC, Super PILOT, Pascal, machine language  
wireless interface: 30.00  
Pascal & Super PILOT drivers: 25.00

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